Docket No.: 50212-207

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Toshiki TARU, et al.

Serial No.: 09/830,939 Group Art Unit: 3743

Filed: May 03, 2001 Examiner: J. Derrington

OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING METHOD AND OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING For:

**FURNACE** 

Commissioner for Patents

**RECEIVED AMENDMENT** 

> JAN 0 8 2003 **TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700**

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following Amendment and Remarks are submitted to response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2002. In the claims, please amend Claim 7 as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 7 as follows.

0051 9U0AF 7. (Twice Amended) An optical fiber drawing furnace comprising a furnace core tube through which a fiber perform penetrates vertically, a heater disposed around said furnace core tube, and a perform container connected to an upper portion of said furnace core tube so as to be integral with said furnace core tube to form a semi-closed space opening in part at a lower end, for housing said fiber perform inside,

said fiber drawing furnace further comprising: